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No. 1.

Interrogatories propounded to Louis McLane, Esq. President of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company, and his replies thereto. (Received 3d Feb. 1838.)

1st. Are you or not the President of the Baltimore and Ohio rail road company? And if yea, were you or not its president at the date of the contract between that company and two of the State's commissioners, for the purchase of three millions of stock of the said State, created under the provisions of the act of May, 1836, chapter 395?

To the first branch of this interrogatory, I answer in the affirmative. The second branch of the interrogatory required a more particular answer; and I proceed to say, that the first application made to me by the company to become its president, was in the month of January, 1837. My answer to that required some consideration. It became my duty, in the first instance, to consider, whether I could, under any circumstances, dissolve my connexions in New York, and if at all, how soon it could be accomplished. It also became my duty to look into the condition and future prospects of the rail road company—to enquire into the means of accomplishing the objects of the company, and to see if it would be in my power to realize the wishes and expectations of those who had invited me to the trust.

To enable me to prosecute the second inquiry, acts of incorporation and several reports exhibiting the affairs of the company, were placed in my hands. My attention was also directed to the act of Assembly referred to in the interrogatory, as indicating the general policy of the State, to succour and encourage the works referred to in the act. I was also pointed to other resources which the company supposed would be at its command, to extend the road to the Ohio, which appeared to be the object principally in view of the company, and which alone would have induced me to embark in it.

Upon inquiry, I discovered that it would be impossible for me to dissolve my connexion in New York for some months; but determined, that if the interests of the Baltimore company would permit sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements in New York, to accept the appointment offered to me. I communicated my determination to the Baltimore company, who supposing a few months would not be material, desired me to accept the office on those terms; with the understanding that the affairs of the company in the interim should